

Maxey, Karen

From: mwk9326@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Maxey, Karen
Subject: Fw: boe meeting 1/15/26

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Good afternoon Karen, I will be reading this statement at the BOE meeting on 1/15/2026. I am requesting it be part of the record in print, in addition to my verbal presentation during community input. Thank you
Nancy Krause

Good evening

At the public speaking section during the most recent Board of Education meeting, several citizens read a part of a poem from an email that a concerned citizen had sent to the board. I am taking this opportunity to read the entire poem by German Protestant pastor **Martin Niemöller**. These powerful words remind me that I cannot be silent when I see injustice being done

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me"

This is why I come to these meetings. To stand up for those who are marginalized. During the previous year, this has been demonstrated through the following 2 actions the BOE took. I remember so clearly being a newbie to these meetings, and sitting in the audience when it was announced that the Anti Racism policy was being removed from the school platform. I sat up a little straighter and looked around shocked. What had I missed.....did racism suddenly leave Calvert County? Did someone wave a magic wand and pooooooof, this terrible part of our society was removed?

"Reported experiences of racism were most prevalent among Asian (56.9%), multiracial (48.8%), and Black or African American (Black) (45.9%) students and least prevalent among White students (17.3%). "

The above data was obtained at the following site

<https://naacp.org/issues/race-justice>

The second incident was the removal of Safe Space stickers after a board member shared concern that there could possibly be “grooming” with the use of these stickers. Once again I sat up straighter and looked around. Did the Board feel our dedicated teachers, counselors, and those who work tirelessly to provide support to our students were pedophiles and using Safe Space stickers to lure children into unsafe situations? Now I am not naïve, I do know that child abuse can be present anywhere and that there is a current investigation going on in the Montgomery County School System.

Our LGBTQ youth need our support and we should not be taking safety away from them, rather providing more services to assist them. The following are statistics from CDC reported November 2024 at the following site.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/lgbtq-youth/health-disparities-among-lgbtq-youth.html>

Been bullied at school

- 29% LGBTQ+ students
- 16% cisgender and heterosexual students

Used illicit drugs

- 15% LGBTQ+ students
- 8% cisgender and heterosexual students

Seriously considered suicide

- 41% LGBTQ+ students
- 13% cisgender and heterosexual students

Felt sad or hopeless

- 65% LGBTQ+ students
- 31% cisgender and heterosexual students

Been forced to have sex

- 17% LGBTQ+ students
- 6% cisgender and heterosexual students

Misused prescription opioids

- 18% LGBTQ+ students
- 8% cisgender and heterosexual students

More data may be reviewed at the NIH library at the following link

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11682966/>

Let us all remember the words of Pastor Niemoller.

Nancy Krause 1/15/2026